

would not have stood by and seen that man sent back to slavery after having travelled hundreds of miles to gain it. Whatever may be the inconsistency of that, I have not been so inconsistent as to both admit that slavery was wrong and that I was a slaveholder; or that the law making slavery was wrong in its inception, but that I would assist in upholding it on the borders of a free State and making that a hunting ground for slaves.

The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) with an assumption not warranted either by his years or by his wisdom, has presumed to speak as if my youth was such that I had barely left the parent nest. I would call the attention of this Convention that his experience covers a period of not quite sixty days. That full-blown statesman has come here after an incubation of about sixty days; and one would suppose that he had been consulted in framing the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States, and had been in public life from that time to this. I thought perhaps the gentleman from Prince George's might have sate at the feet of my colleague (Mr. Stockbridge) during the last session of the General Assembly of this State, and so have learned from him, but my colleague was unfortunately born upon the hated soil that produced such iniquitous anti-slavery men as Jay, Everett, Alexander Hamilton and Franklin, and the chivalrous member from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) could not stoop to study in that school. Moreover, the lengthy Latin quotation paraded in the gentleman's speech proved during its utterance that such pronunciation and scanning could not have been learned in any New England school. I thought perhaps the gentleman might have supposed I was not capable of expressing my views upon the floor of this House, because I had not been like him engaged in the trial of those celebrated cases which have made his name already so famous, that it will be doubtless quoted as authority by all generations yet to come.

In conclusion, I have but to say that I am here to represent a constituency that thought me old enough and wise enough to come here. If gentlemen can bring any arguments to disprove anything I advance, I shall be delighted to hear it. If they can utterly overthrow any propositions I may advance, they will be heard by none more gladly than by myself. It shows the inherent weakness of the cause they attempt to defend, when not touching the arguments, not denying the facts, they attempt merely to slur it over by an allusion to my youth.

Mr. MILLER. I have a personal explanation also to make. The gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Berry) has made some allusion to the vote that was taken on the 12th of May, 1864, on the resolution offered by the gentleman from Baltimore.

"Resolved, That this Convention tenders the thanks of the State to the soldiers of Maryland in the army of General Grant, for the gallant manner in which they have behaved during the recent battles, and that this Convention expresses its deep sympathy with the families of the slain, and for the wounded in their sufferings."

I voted, sir, upon that resolution, on that occasion, contrary to the majority of the gentlemen with whom I have uniformly acted since I have been here, and for this reason. I did not regard voting for the resolution as an indorsement of the war or the policy upon which the war is waged. I can vote at any time thanks to the gallantry of Maryland men, displayed in the field of battle and did so in this case without approving of the policy of the war in which they are engaged. The concluding part of the resolution, expressing sympathy with the families of those who have fallen, I would vote for under all circumstances.

My views are just these in regard to the war; that if prosecuted at all it should be waged as the Crittenden resolution declares for no purpose of conquest or subjugation, or to overthrow or interfere with the rights of any man under the Constitution, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, and equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war should cease. I think if the war is now prosecuted for any other purpose, it has changed its character. By voting for that resolution I did not approve of the war much less indorse the policy upon which it is now conducted.

Mr. CLARKE. One word in reply to the personal matter of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing.) The gentleman misunderstood me; for I did not intend to comment either upon his years or his legislative experience, when I pronounced him a "fledgeling" in his constitutional law. I leave the judgment of posterity to pass upon that, upon my views as spread upon the Journal of Debates.

On motion of Mr. MILLER, The Convention adjourned to meet under the order previously adopted, on July 6th, at 12 o'clock M.